

PASCOAG UTILITY DISTRICT
BOARD OF UTILITY COMMISSIONERS

By-Law Subcommittee – January 25, 2010

A meeting of the Pascoag Utility District Board of Utility Commissioners By-Law Subcommittee was held on Monday, January 25, 2010 in the District office, 253 Pascoag Main Street, Pascoag, RI.

Members Present: Albert Palmisciano and Ann Polacek

Members Absent: Brian Choiniere

Mr. Palmisciano called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

1. Review of Charter and By-Laws

Mr. Garille reviewed the recommended changes to the By-Laws and Charter. He stated that the suggested change to the language in the By-Laws (Article I, Section I) should read-Qualified voters shall be eligible to vote and act in all meetings of the Pascoag Utility District. A “qualified voter” is defined as, “any person whose name appears on an active account with the Pascoag Utility District and who resides

in the village of Pascoag or who owns property in the village of Pascoag.”

On page 2 of the charter it currently states, “The members of the board of utility commissioners, moderator or clerk shall be residents of the village of Pascoag. Any registered voter within the geographic boundaries of the village of Pascoag shall be eligible to run for election.” Mr. Garille recommended that it be changed to, “The members of the Board of Utility Commissioners, moderator or clerk shall be residents of the village of Pascoag. Such residents of the village of Pascoag whose name appears on an active account with the Pascoag Utility District shall be eligible to run for election to the Board of Utility Commissioners, Moderator or Clerk.”

“In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Board of Utility Commissioners, Moderator or Clerk by reason of death, resignation or other cause, the Board itself may select an eligible “voter” to fill the vacancy until the next annual election.” Mr. Garille suggested that this be changed due to the fact that a person can be an eligible voter but not an eligible candidate. He suggested that the term “voter” which was referenced above, be changed to “candidate”.

If the Board approves the changes to the Charter, they would need to be introduced into legislation this session.

Mr. Palmisciano also wanted to discuss the hydrant fee in regards to it being paid for by all of the residents in Pascoag and not just Pascoag water customers. Mr. Bernstein had stated in a previous meeting that if this charge was to be assessed among all rate payers it would require a charter change. Ms. Allaire has been working on

gathering prices on how much it would cost for administration, installation of software and other costs associated with imposing the tax across all customers. Ms. Allaire questioned how the tax would be enforced if someone refused to pay.

Mr. Garille stated that usually when you do a charter change, the General Assembly asks that you get an endorsement from the Town.

Mr. Palmisciano suggested that the Board work off of the By-Law Subcommittee minutes from January 5, 2010 because they are itemized and the Board can discuss each item and then make their decision. Mr. Palmisciano also wanted to discuss the possibility of going to two General Managers. Mr. Garille thought that it should be addressed in the By-Laws. The Charter would need to be looked at to determine if a change would need to be made regarding the possibility of going to two General Managers.

2. Adjournment

Ms. Polacek made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Palmisciano. The vote in favor was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 pm.

Brian Choiniere, Secretary
Board of Utility Commissioners

Desarae Downs, Recording Secretary